

A NEW TASMANIAN SPECIES OF *Milligania* (FAMILY *Liliaceae*)

WINIFRED M. CURTIS

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This species of *Milligania* was identified by Leonard Rodway who appended the specific epithet *lindoniana* to a herbarium specimen collected by Mrs. Lindon in 1926. However, I have been unable to find any publication describing and naming this plant which will be illustrated in Part IV of "The Endemic flora of Tasmania," Ariel Press, London (in press). The following description is necessary in accordance with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, to validate the name proposed by Rodway.

I wish to thank Mr. R. G. Hood for assistance in preparing the latin diagnosis.

*Milligania lindoniana* Rodw. ex W. M. Curtis, sp. nov.

Herba perennis caespitosa rhizomate valido descendente. Caulis erectus tomentosus (8-) 12 - 40 cm. longus dimidio supero inflorescentia paniculata occupato et basi vaginalibus basibus foliorum et fibris foliorum cariosorum arcte obvoluto. Folia praecipue radicalibus imbricatis; vagina basalis parte antica membranacea clausa; lamina coriacea lanceolata-acuminata (5-) 12 - 20 cm. longa, (1-) 1.2 - 2.4 cm. prope basin lata, infra medium carinata super complanata vel aliquantum plicata; supra glabriuscula subtus nervata argentea pilis furfuraceis compressis oblecta, sed margine et nervo medio pilis squamaceis longis ramosis pronis indutis. Rami paniculae bracteis foliosis subtenti. Flores plus minus 1.2 - 1.5 cm. diametro insidentes pedicellis brevibus erectiusculis bracteis parvis subtentis. Perianthium persistens et subter fructu reflexum, fere ad basem sex-partitum lobis angustis-oblongis patentibus; tubus basalis brevis supra purpureus, lobi eborini. Stamina numero perianthii lobis aequalia ad basem loborum perianthii affixa, filamentis complanatis loborum circa 3-plo brevioribus et infra medium deltoideis purpureis; antherae basifixae introrsum dehiscentes. Ovarium atrogithagineum 3-loculare basi perianthii vix immersum; ovula numerosa; stilus brevis; stigmata 3, parva subulata. Capsula membranacea loculis superne breviter longitudinaliter dehiscentibus.

Tasmania: Mount Field West at 4,500 feet, leg. Mrs. Lindon, December 1926 (Typus in Rodway Collection, Herb. Univ. Tasman.)

*Milligania lindoniana* is widespread but local in montane habitats; it is found by the sides of streams and in pockets of wet peat on Mount Field West and on Cradle Mountain at altitudes of about 4,000 to 4,500 feet, and at lower altitudes on mountains and wet moors in the south and west of the State. Although resembling *M. densiflora* Hook.f.

in habit it is a smaller plant and readily distinguished by characters of both leaves and flowers. The leaves have on their lower surfaces a close covering of matted, appressed hairs causing a silvery sheen similar to that characteristic of leaves of *Astelia alpina* R.Br. Larger, scale-like hairs attached by a broad base lie along the midrib and margins; they overlap and are directed forward parallel to the blade.

The flowers have the perianth divided nearly to the base into six creamy-white lobes which spread widely; the perianth is persistent and becomes reflexed below the fruit as in *M. stylosa* F.Muell. ex Benth. The most conspicuous feature of the flower is the crimson colour of the centre. The filaments of the stamens are flattened, broadly triangular in the lower half, and deep crimson; they are joined to the bases of the perianth-lobes and the crimson colour continues over the inner surface of the short perianth-tube. The ovary is also conspicuous, being dark greenish-red, it is not concealed by the perianth.